

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 PRS-01 DPW-01 IO-03

RSR-01 AID-10 EB-03 SCEM-01 INT-01 OMB-01 COME-00

TRSE-00 /074 W

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R 081111Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5708

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 14339

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 SIT REP, AUGUST 8

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL NHA TRANG BEING REPEATED

QUOTE

NHA TRANG 0753

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 SIT REP, AUGUST 8

1. SECURITY SITUATION: HOSTILITIES INTENSIFIED IN MR 2 OVER THE PAST 48 HOURS. THERE WERE 38 INCIDENTS REPORTED: 8 IN KONTUM, 13 IN BINH DINH, 8 IN PLEIKU, 4 IN BINH THUAN, 3 IN PHU YEN, AND ONE EACH IN KHANH HOA AND NINH THUAN. MOST WERE ATTACKS BY FIRE; THE
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REST MINE INCIDENTS AND GROUND OPERATIONS. CASUALTIES INCREASED:

VC/NVA: 45 KIA, 3 CAPTURED: RVNAF: 13 KIA, 67 WIA AND 1 MIA.
A TERRORIST GRENADE EXPLODED IN A PHU YEN THEATER, KILLING THREE
AND WOUNDING TWENTY. THE NUMBER OF TACTICAL AIR MISSIONS REMAINED
HIGH: 74 ON AUGUST 6 (44 IN KONTUM, 30 IN BINH DINH) AND 65 ON
AUGUST 7 (49 IN KONTUM, 16 IN BINH DINH).

2. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN PLEIKU IS INCREASING. THE CONSUL AT
KONTUM AND THE PLEIKU PROVREP REPORT THAT THE RVNAF HAVE
LAUNCHED AN OFFENSIVE OPERATION FROM
THE PLEI MRONG (LY THE
LOI) RANGER CAMP WITH THE GOAL OF PUSHING NORTH TO ENGAGE
ENEMY FORCES SOUTHWEST OF KONTUM CITY. DURING THIS REPORTING
PERIOD, TWO ENGAGEMENTS WITH THE ENEMY (AT ZA 148.725 ON AUG
6 AND AT ZA 163.723 ON AUG 7) ACCOUNTED FOR 31 OF THE 45
VC/NVA KIA REPORTED REGION-WIDE. THE RANGERS REPORTEDLY SUFFERED
ONLY 7 WIA. ENGAGEMENTS IN THIS AREA AUG 4 AND 5 REPORTED NHA
TRANG SIT REP AUGUST 6 AS "ENEMY ATTACKS" ON RANGER UNITS WERE
MOST PROBABLY RESULTS OF THIS RANGER INITIATIVE.

3. MEANWHILE, GVN TRUCKED 561 OF THE 680 RESIDENTS OF PLEI
MRONG AREA WHOM IT HAD COLLECTED AT RANGER CAMP (AUG 6 SIT
REP) TO LEI CAN VILLAGE, SEAT OF LE TRUNG DISTRICT HQ ON AUG 6.

4. RVNAF DID LESS WELL IN NORTHERN BINH DINH, THE OTHER AREA
OF HEAVY GROUND ACTION. ENGAGEMENTS HERE ACCOUNTED FOR 11 OF THE
13 REGIONAL RVNAF KIA, AND 35 OF THE 67 IWA. THE VC/NVA LOST
5 KIA OF THE REGIONAL TOTAL OF 45. THE SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF
ENEMY MINES DETONATED BY FRIENDLY FORCES INDICATES THAT THE
RVNAF IS CONTINUING ITS AGGRESSIVE EXPANSION OPERATIONS, EVEN
AGAINST STIFF ENEMY RESISTANCE.

5. WORKING ON THE RAILROAD: THE ENEMY CONTINUES TO HARASS THE
RAILWAY. IN PHU YEN, THE TRAIN HAD JUST COMPLETED A WEEK OF
INCIDENT-FREE TRAVEL ON THE QUI NHON-TUY HOA-NHA TRANG RUN
WHEN A MINE DERAILED THE LOCOMOTIVE AND FIVE CARS ON AUGUST 7.
ON THE SAME DAY IN BINH THUAN, A MINE SLIGHTLY DAMAGED THE
LOCOMOTIVE OF A TRAIN TRAVELING FROM MUONG MAN TO PHAN RANG.
PROCEEDING FARTHER DOWN THE TRACK, THE TRAIN WAS FORCED TO TURN
BACK WHEN IT ENCOUNTERED A DESTROYED CULVERT WHICH NO LOCAL
FORCES HAD BOTHERED TO REPORT.

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6. NEW PROVINCE CHIEF: COL. NGUYEN DUC DUNG, HERETOFORE
COMMANDER OF THE 2ND ARMORED BRIGADE IN PLEIKU, WAS INSTALLED
MORNING OF AUGUST 8 AS PLEIKU PROVINCE CHIEF, REPLACING
VETERN PC AND NOW SENATE CANDIDATE COL. TRUNG SON BA (YA BA).
COL. DUNG WAS ONE OF TWO ETHNIC VIETNAMESE OFFICERS REPORTEDLY
SPONSORED BY MR 2 COMMANDER, MAJ.GEN. TOAN, FOR THE PLEIKU POST;
HE EVIDENTLY WON OUT OVER A MONTAGNARD OFFICER WHO HAD THE

SUPPORT OF MINISTER NAY LUETTE (SEE NHA TRANG 0652, JUNE 29 SIT REP).

7. ECONOMIC: THE INCREASE IN PRICES OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS ANTICIPATED IN AUGUST 6 SIT REP TOOK PLACE WHEN VENDORS RESUMED SALES YESTERDAY. PRESENT PRICES PER-LITER ARE: GAS, 105 (CORRECT PART 7 AUG 6 SIT REP TO READ 105 RATHER THAN 150); DIESEL, 86.5; KEROSENE, 50. WE UNDERSTAND THESE ARE EQUIVALENT TO SAIGON PRICES, AND THAT A FURTHER RISE IN NHA TRANG PRICES MAY YET OCCUR TO ALLOW FOR TRANSPORT. PROV REP PHU YEN ALSO REPORTED POL SALES DISCONTINUED IN TUY HOA AUGUST 6-7. WE ASSUME SALES HAVE NOW RECOMMENCED THERE AS WELL. COOK UNQUOTE MARTIN

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